

Strood Rural District Council.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health,


For the Year ended December, 1943.

M. F. McDONNELL, M.B., B.Ch., B A.O., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

A E. R. SOUTH, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.,
Cert. Meat and Foods, Sanitary Inspector.

J COWPLAND, C.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.
Cert. Meat and Foods, Sanitary Inspector.

CHATHAM :
PARRETT & NEVES, LTD.,
30, HIGH STREET,



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The Rural District of Strood, Kent.

Report of the Medical Officer of Health for the Year 1943.

To the Chairman and Members of the Strood Rural District Council.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit for your consideration my Annual Report of the Sanitary Circumstances of the District for year ended December, 1943.

The contents and arrangements are based on the Memorandum issued by the Ministry of Health.

The Report of the Sanitary Inspector, under Article 27, Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations, 1935, is embodied in this Report.

I would take this opportunity of thanking the Council for continued interest and support.

Your obedient servant,

M. F. McDONNELL,

*Medical Officer of Health,
and Medical Superintendent, Isolation Hospital.*

Public Health Department,
Council Offices,
Frindsbury Hill,
STROOD, Kent.

July, 1944.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (acres)—48,811 (31st December, 1938).

Rateable Value—31st March, 1944 £113,555

Sum represented by a Penny Rate (1944) £470

Vital Statistics of the District.

BIRTHS. During the year there were 277 births.

BIRTH RATE (R.G.). 16.9 per 1,000.

DEATHS. During the year there were 206 deaths.

DEATH RATE (R.G.). 12.5 per 1,000.

							M.	F.
BIRTHS	{	Legitimate	...	...	...	...	147	121
		Illegitimate	...	...	...	...	7	2
DEATHS		...	...	...	...	...	115	91

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, child-birth:—

	From Sepsis or Other Causes	...	...	...		1
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	...	...		1
„ „ Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	...	...		Nil
„ „ Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age)	...	...	...	...		2

						M.	F.
Stillbirths	{	Total	...	...	...	2	2
		Legitimate	...	...	...	1	2
		Illegitimate	...	...	...	1	—

INFANT MORTALITY. 13 (no illegitimate) deaths occurred among children under one year of age.

The following Table gives details of each Parish.

Parishes			Births* (1943)	Deaths (1943)	Cases of Infectious Fever (Civilians only)
Allhallows	...	...	6	1	1
Cliffe	...	...	3	23	18
Cobham	...	...	8	13	12
Cooling	...	...	3	—	—
Cuxton	...	...	10	8	35
Frindsbury Extra	...	...	24	25	35
Halling	...	...	29	36	25
Higham	...	...	17	24	4
High Halstow	...	...	2	7	7
Hoo	...	...	23	25	48
Isle of Grain	...	...	4	3	15
Luddesdown	...	...	1	1	8
Meopham	...	...	19	27	74
St. Mary Hoo	...	...	2	4	6
Shorne	...	...	6	16	24
Stoke	...	...	9	1	25
Total	...	...	186	214	337

* Actually registered in the Area.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.

The following temporary arrangements have been made for the reception and treatment of cases of Infectious Diseases:—

Small Pox to Capel Hospital, Paddock Wood (Tel. Pembury 17).

Other Diseases to Dartford (Bow Arrow) Isolation Hospital
(Tel. Dartford 3369).

Table showing the numbers of cases and deaths from Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria and Enteric Fever since 1937:—

	Scarlet Fever		Diphtheria		Enteric Fever	
	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths	Cases	Deaths
1937	13	Nil	9	1	Nil	Nil
1938	54	1	50	2	1	Nil
1939	46	Nil	15	Nil	Nil	Nil
1940	30	Nil	2	Nil	1	1
1941	23	Nil	3	Nil	Nil	Nil
1942	42	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
1943	40	Nil	6	2	Nil	Nil
Total ...	248	1	85	5	4	1

Statement of Particulars appearing in the Register of Notifications of cases of Tuberculosis for the Year ended the 31st day of December, 1944.

	Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Pulmonary and Non-Pulmonary Total.
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	Total	
(a) Number of cases of Tuberculosis on the Register at the commencement of the Year	22	15	37	31	32	63	100
(b) Number of cases notified to me under the Regulations of 1912 for the first time during the year	9	5	14	5	—	5	19
(c) Number of cases removed from the Register during the Year ...	3	5	8	4	3	7	15
(d) Number of cases remaining on the Register at the end of the Year	28	15	43	32	29	61	104

Scarlet Fever.

Number of cases notified	40
Number of deaths	Nil
Case fatality per cent.	Nil
Number of cases removed to Hospital	22
Percentage of cases removed	55%

Diphtheria.

Number of cases notified	...	...	...	...	...	6
Number of deaths	...	...	...	...	...	2
Case fatality per cent.	...	...	...	...	...	33%
Number of cases removed	...	...	...	...	...	6
Percentage of cases removed	...	...	...	...	...	100%

Diphtheria Immunisation.

The Council's Immunisation Scheme made satisfactory progress during the year and the position on the 31st December, 1943, was as follows:—

	5-15 yrs.	0-5 yrs.	Total
Estimated number of children in Authority's area at 31st December, 1943	2,400	1,270	3,670
Children immunised	1,959	806	2,765
Percentage immunised	81.5	63.5	72.1
Number of children (including temporary residents) who completed the full course of immunisation between 1st January and 31st December, 1943	194	580	774
Number of cases of Diphtheria notified between 1st January and 31st December, 1943	1	Nil	1

Small Pox.

No cases were notified during the year.

Conferences with other Local Authorities have been held at which a scheme was suggested to provide accommodation at Dislingbury and the West Kent Hospital. The K.C.C. have now arranged for cases to go to the Capel Hospital, Paddock Wood (Tel. Pembury 17).

Typhus Fever.

The Kent County Council decided to adapt part of Bow Arrow Hospital, Dartford, for the admission and treatment of Typhus Fever.

Anti-Malarial Measures.

Arising from a memorandum from the Ministry of Health, dealing with measures for the control of mosquitoes in Great Britain, I again contacted the various Military Commanders in the area soliciting their co-operation in the spraying of ditches, pools, ponds, and other stagnant water.

I have to report that I received every assistance, and the work was carried out by the troops in the months of April and May.

Causes of Death in Rural Area.

1943.

		M.	F.
	ALL CAUSES	115	91
1.	Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	Nil	Nil
2.	Cerebro-spinal Fever	Nil	Nil
3.	Scarlet Fever	Nil	Nil
4.	Whooping Cough	Nil	Nil
5.	Diphtheria	Nil	2
6.	Tuberculosis of respiratory system	5	6
7.	Other forms of Tuberculosis	Nil	1
8.	Syphilitic Diseases	Nil	Nil
9.	Influenza	3	6
10.	Measles	Nil	1
11.	Acute polio-myelitis and polio encephalitis	Nil	Nil
12.	Acute infantile encephalitis	Nil	Nil
13.	Cancer of buc. cav. and œsoph (M) uterus (F)	1	3
14.	Cancer of stomach and duodenum	4	3
15.	Cancer of breast	Nil	2
16.	Cancer of all other sites	9	8
17.	Diabetes	Nil	1
18.	Intracranial vascular lesions	9	9
19.	Heart diseases	30	21
20.	Other disorders of circulatory system	3	Nil
21.	Bronchitis	5	3
22.	Pneumonia	6	3
23.	Other respiratory diseases	3	1
24.	Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	2	Nil
25.	Diarrhœa (under 2 years)	Nil	2
26.	Appendicitis	Nil	1
27.	Other Digestive Disorders	Nil	2
28.	Nephritis	8	2
29.	Puerperal and post-abortion sepsis	Nil	Nil
30.	Other Maternal causes	Nil	1
31.	Premature Births	3	Nil
32.	Congenital mal. Birth inj. infant. dis.	1	Nil
33.	Suicides	1	Nil
34.	Road traffic accidents	1	Nil
35.	Other violent causes	5	3
36.	All other causes	16	10

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

(1) Maternity and Child Welfare.

Cliffe	British Legion Hall	2nd and 4th Tuesday afternoon.
Cobham	Meadow Room	2nd and 4th Wednesday „
Cuxton	National Schoolroom	2nd and 4th Thursday „
Halling	Working Men's Club	1st, third and 5th Friday „

Harvel	Village Hall	1st and 3rd Monday	afternoon.
Higham	The Institute	1st and 3rd Monday	„
Hoo	Five Bells Inn	1st and 3rd Wednesday	„
Meopham	Village Hall	1st and 3rd Thursday	„
(Voluntary)			
Stoke	Nags Head	2nd Friday	„
Wainscott	Working Men's Institute	Thursday	„

(2) **Diphtheria Immunisation.**

Clinic held at Council Offices, Frindsbury Hill, every Monday, Wednesday and Friday at 4 p.m.

(3) **School Medical Services.**

Minor Ailments	West Kent House, Station Road, Northfleet.	Saturdays at 9.30.
Dental	No fixed clinics. Temporary clinics are arranged as occasion demands.	
Ophthalmic	West Kent House, Station Road, Northfleet.	Thursdays at 1.30.
	School Clinic, Elm House, 15, New Road Avenue, Chatham.	Thursdays at 9.30.

(4) **Tuberculosis Dispensaries.**

13, New Road, Rochester.	Tuesdays, 2-3. Fridays, 9.30-10.30.
Gravesend and North Kent Hospital, Gravesend.	Wednesdays, 1-3.

(5) **Venereal Diseases.**

36, New Road, Rochester.	Tuesdays, 1.30-5.30. Thursdays, 11-1.
22, Cobham Street, Graves- end.	MEN—Tuesdays, 11-1. Thursdays, 4-6. WOMEN—Tuesdays, 1-2.30. Thursday, 2-4.

The undermentioned figures show the number of cases suffering from V.D. attending the Rochester and Gravesend V.D. Clinics from the Strood and Rural District:—

Syphilis	20	...	Gonorrhœa	3
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(6) **Midwives.**

Cuxton	{ Mrs. I. G. Sheath, St. Clements, Church Hill, Cuxton.	Tel.
Halling		Strood 7503
Frindsbury	Mrs. L. M. Ross, 9, Woodstock Road, Strood.	Tel.
Extra		Strood 7206

PARISHES SERVED BY DISTRICT MIDWIVES.

Cliffe	{ Nurse A. L. Taylor, 5, Irvine Terrace, Cliffe-at-Hoo	Tel.
Cooling		Cliffe 23

Cobham	}	Nurse E. Backhouse, 6, High Street, Cobham.	Tel. Cobham 3128
Luddesdown			
Shorne			
Higham		Nurse S. McGarvey, "Wyvern," Forge Lane, Mid-Higham.	Tel. Shorne 3109
Hoo		Nurse Broad, M.M., 6, Alexandra Cottages, High Street, Hoo.	Tel. Hoo 66
Allhallows	}	Nurse F. A. Leaman, Stuartville, School Hill, Lower Stoke.	Tel. Allhallows 29
High Halstow			
Isle of Grain			
Hoo St. Mary			
Stoke			
Meopham		Nurse J. M. Collie, Clements Reach, Meopham.	Tel. Meopham 3127

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

There are 47 Cowsheds and Dairies in the District, all of which have been regularly inspected.

One milk producer-retailer was prosecuted during the year in respect of sample of milk found on analysis to contain added water to the extent of 8.4%. Fined £6 with £2 2s. costs.

One milk producer-retailer was cautioned in respect of milk found on analysis to be deficient in fat.

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936.

The following have been licensed for the production of "Tuberculin Tested" milk within this Council's area:—

Mr. G. F. Osenton, Mill Farm, Hoo.
 Mr. B. Osenton, Solomons Farm, High Halstow.
 Mrs. Y. Walmsley, Bramble Hall Farm, Luddesdown.
 Mr. W. P. Niven, Ivy House Farm, Meopham.
 Mr. C. Batchelor, Rye Street Farm, Cliffe.
 Mr. J. Osenton, Forge Farm, High Halstow.
 Messrs. F. E. Drayton & Son, Sandhurst Dairy, Sharnal Street, High Halstow.

Also the following are licensed for the production of "Accredited" milk:—

Mr. L. G. Hales, Thong House Farm, Shorne.
 Mr. S. Osenton, Dalham Farm, High Halstow.
 Messrs. Filmer, Courtsole Farm, Cliffe.
 Mr. C. Barton, Ashmere Farm, Meopham.
 Mr. S. R. Osenton, Formby Farm, Halling.

Mr. Cowpland submits the following:—

The standard of milk production throughout the District has been improved during the year. An interesting point is that six licences have been issued to produce tuberculin tested milk in this period.

Structural improvements to Dairies and Cowsheds have been a notable part of the progress. Two new Cowsheds were built and one old Cowshed registered and improved structurally by the insertion of extra windows, altering the drainage system and providing sterilizing equipment and extra washing facilities to the dairy. Two dairies were constructed and a further small one improved by the installation of extra washing facilities and lighting. In one case the paving of an open yard and in a second the approach to the cowshed from the meadow were laid down in concrete; another approach was also paved with concrete, and in three cases paving filled with other media such as ashes and flint stones.

During the latter period of the year plans for the construction of three cowsheds have been approved and work commenced.

In all the above matters advice has been given both as to the construction and drainage of same.

Two Preliminary Notices under the Milk and Dairies Order only were served. It has been found that any defects noted have, in nearly all cases been corrected after a verbal notice to the persons concerned.

The number of visits made under the Milk and Dairies Order during the year was 156.

Water Supplies of Area.

District supplied by piped supply by:—

- (1) Higham and Hundred of Hoo Water Company.
- (2) Mid-Kent Water Company.

(In addition the Kent County Council supply a part of the area.)

1. Sufficiency. Satisfactory.
2. Quality. Monthly samples are collected from various parts of the District and submitted for bacteriological examination. In every case the result was excellent.
3. Supply is constant.
4. Estimated proportion of dwelling houses supplied from Works:

(a) Direct to houses	...	...	...	...	76%
(b) By means of standpipes	22%
5. Estimated proportion of population supplied from Works

...	98%
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6. Plumbo-solvent action—NOT present.

Bacteriological Examination of Water Supplies.

Monthly bacteriological examinations of all water supplies in the area were undertaken.

36 samples were collected from the Higham and Hundred of Hoo, Mid-Kent Water Company, and the Kent County Council Private Supply at Shorne Ifield. In every case the result was satisfactory.

In addition 4 samples were collected from various sources including wells earmarked for emergency supplies. Only one of these was satisfactory, the rest being reported as "contaminated."

Food and Drugs Act, 1938, etc.

Total number of samples, 201.

HOUSING.

During the year a survey of all houses unfit for human habitation was carried out. 232 premises were inspected and the Council approved the erection of 104 new houses during the first year's programme.

Parish.	No. of houses Provisionally Scheduled for Clearance.	No. of new houses to be erected under first year's programme.
Allhallows and Stoke	18	8
Cooling	6	4
Cliffe	21	12
Cobham	9	8
Cuxton	17	8
Frindsbury (Upnor)	33	12
Grain	19	4
Halling	8	8
Higham	38	16
Hoo	20	Nil
Luddesdown	4	4
Meopham	26	12
Shorne	13	8
	232	104

SANITARY INSPECTOR'S ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1943.

To the Chairman and Members of the Strood Rural District Council.

LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1943, in respect of my duties as Sanitary Inspector, Inspection Officer under the Housing Acts, Inspector of Cowsheds, Dairies, Factories and Workshops, Meat and Food Inspector and Petroleum Inspector.

Nuisance Inspections.

79 premises were inspected under the P.H. Acts. Where nuisances or defects were found to exist, notices were served to remedy such defects. Re-inspections followed and frequent visits made whilst the work was in progress.

In addition during the inspections under the Housing Act, Notices were served regarding defects in 63 houses.

As the result of such inspections improvements of various kinds were effected on premises in the District during the year.

Nuisances Abated.

WATER CLOSETS OR PAIL CLOSETS :

New L.C.C. pans and traps fitted or new pails provided	...	10
Water closets or pail closets re-built or new	... ..	1
Water fittings (cisterns, etc.) repaired or provided	... ..	9
Seats, doors, floors, brickwork repaired	... ..	10

CESSPOOLS :

New provided	... ..	1
Emptied (not by local authority)	52

YARDS :

Drained and paved with cement concrete	2
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SINKS AND BATHS :

Sinks fixed	2
Waste pipes provided and fixed	3

DRAINAGE :

Repaired	1
Cleared by owners	... ..	17
Inspection chambers provided or repaired	... ..	2
Inspection chamber covers and frames provided	... ..	4
Vent shafts repaired	... ..	1
New drains provided	... ..	2

DAMPNESS :

Roofs repaired and made watertight	... ..	58
Eaves guttering and down pipes provided or repaired	... ..	8
External walls protected from dampness	... ..	16

GENERAL :

Chimneys and chimney stacks rebuilt or repaired	... ..	3
Cooking ranges and coppers provided or repaired	... ..	27
Floors, new or repaired	... ..	19
Sashes, doors, frames and stairs repaired	... ..	23
Filthy houses cleaned by tenants	... ..	4
Rooms, walls and ceilings repaired and cleansed	... ..	55

Infectious Diseases.

337 cases of Infectious Disease were notified during the year ending 31st December, 1943, 32 of which were removed to and treated at Bow Arrow Hospital, Dartford.

The cases were immediately visited and a general inspection made of the premises. Steps were taken to remedy any insanitary defects, which were found to exist, the premises disinfected and instructions given for a thorough cleansing of the premises. The following table shows the nature of each notification and the Parishes in which they occurred:

Parish.	Total cases notified.	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Erysipelas.	Cerebro Spinal Fever.	Dysentery	Pneumonia.	Tuberculosis		Measles.	Whooping Cough	Cases removed to Hospital.
								Pulmonary.	Non-Pulmonary.			
All Hallows ...	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	...
Cliffe ...	18	3	...	...	...	...	...	1	...	14	...	1
Cobham ...	12	7	...	...	...	1	3	...	...	1	...	8
Cooling ...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
Cuxton ...	35	4	1	...	...	...	1	...	...	29	...	2
Frindsbury Ex ...	35	5	1	...	...	...	...	1	...	28	...	6
Grain ...	15	1	2	...	...	...	...	...	...	12	...	3
Halling ...	25	4	...	...	2	...	...	...	...	18	1	4
Higham ...	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	2	1	1	...	...
High Halstow ...	7	4	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	2	...	2
Hoo ...	48	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	42	...	1
Luddesdown ...	8	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	8	...	...
Meopham ...	74	3	2	1	...	...	2	2	2	59	3	3
St. Mary ...	6	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	6	...	...
Shorne ...	24	2	...	...	1	...	1	...	...	20	...	2
Stoke ...	25	1	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	24	...	...
Totals ...	337	40	6	1	3	1	7	6	4	265	4	32
Total cases removed to Hospital	...	22	6	...	3	1	...	...	...	...	...	32

Scabies Order, 1941.

Facilities for the treatment of Scabies exist at the First Aid Post, Wainscott.

The following is the number of persons treated during the year:—

Adults 83 Children III

Cowsheds and Dairies.

232 visits were made during the year to Cowsheds and Dairies in the District, and 2 notices served for breach of the Regulations.

The following gives the number of Cowkeepers, Dairymen, etc., on the Registers:—

Number of Cowkeepers in the District ... 43
Number of Dairymen and Retailers (not Cowkeepers) ... 8

41 samples of mixed milk were submitted to the Bacteriological Department, Maidstone, under the Grade "A" (Accredited) Milk Scheme, and with the exception of 14 samples all samples complied with the prescribed conditions.

18 samples were also submitted for Tuberculosis and, except one, all samples proved to be free from tubercle bacilli.

Food Inspection.

62 visits were made by your Inspector to various premises associated with the sale or preparation of food, and the following is a list of food condemned, the approximate weight being 7 cwts. 2 qrs. 14 lbs.

56 lbs. Rolled Oats	Maggots
33 lbs. Sausages	Putrid
33 lbs. Luncheon Meat	Blown
One 2½ lbs. tin Apples	Blown
5 tins Egg Substitute	Mites
86 lbs. Bacon	Bone Taint
9 tins Soup	Blown
16 tins Plums	Blown
27½ lbs. Cheese	Mould
4 tins Condensed Milk	Damaged
44 dozen Eggs	Damaged
9½ lbs. Ham	Blown
22 lbs. Beef	Heated
4 tins Peas	Blown
159 Swiss Rolls	Mould
40 Mince Pies	Mould
254 Chocolate Cakes	Mould
106 Chelsea Buns	Mould
400 Small Scones	Mould
257 lbs. Oranges	Putrid
21½ lbs. Biscuits	Wet and Mould

Summary of Inspections and Visits.

Primary Inspections of Dwellings (P.H.A.)	...	...	...	79
Re-inspections after service of notices and visits during progress of work	...	...	...	80
Inspections under Housing Act	...	...	...	321
Complaints received and investigated	...	...	...	103
Inspection of Rubbish Dumps	...	...	...	15
Inspection of Tents, Vans and Sheds	...	...	...	3
Inspection of Cowsheds and Dairies	...	...	...	76
Visits to Factories, Bakehouses, etc.	...	...	...	40
Visits re Rats and Mice Destruction	...	...	...	26
Visits to Shops, etc.	...	...	...	31
Visits re Water Supplies and Emergency Water Supplies	...	...	...	58
Visits re Infectious Disease, Scabies, etc.	...	...	...	312
Inspections under Petroleum Act	...	...	...	12
Miscellaneous Visits (Salvage, Refuse Collection, etc.)	...	...	...	593
Interviews (Owners and Builders)	...	...	...	75
				1824

In addition to above, Mr. Cowpland made 240 inspections under the Housing Act, 8 under the Public Health Act, and one inspection in connection with food.

Refuse Collection.

In April the collection of house refuse was extended to the Parish of Halling. The collection by direct labour is now carried out in six parishes.

The total number of cubic yards collected was 2,452.

House refuse is also collected by contract in six other parishes.

Salvage.

The following are particulars showing the amount and value of salvage collected during the year:—

1943-44					Weight.			Value.		
					Tons.	Cwt.	Qrs.	£	s.	d.
Bones	...	...	...	...	5	1	1	24	0	7
Glass	...	...	...	...	18	12	0	57	1	0
Rubber	...	...	...	...	5	9	0	13	12	6
Rags, Sacking	...	...	...	...	10	17	3	122	3	10
Mixed Metals	...	...	...	...		13	0	11	16	0
Scrap Iron	...	...	...	...	*55	12	0	83	16	0
Paper	...	...	...	...	75	12	3	498	4	1
Batteries	...	...	...	...	6	0	0	3	0	0
					<hr/>			<hr/>		
					177	17	3	£813	14	0
					<hr/>			<hr/>		

*An additional 70 tons of light scrap iron has been collected during the year which is unsaleable.

I would like to take this opportunity of thanking the Chairman and Members of the Strood Rural District Council for the kind consideration they have shown me.

I am, Mesdames and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

ARTHUR E. R. SOUTH, *Sanitary Inspector.*

